



JOEL KITCHENS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 1ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Kitchens Lauds Plan to Protect Long-Term Care

Madison – Representative Joel Kitchens (R-Sturgeon Bay) today gave his support to the Joint Committee on Finance’s (JFC) decision to reject Governor Walker’s proposals that would have significantly altered Wisconsin’s long-term care programs.

“Since the Governor first delivered his budget proposal in early February, I have heard from countless constituents who are deeply concerned that the proposed changes to our long-term care services would have significant, adverse effects on the care they received,” Rep. Kitchens said. “For that reason, I am very grateful to the Republican members of the JFC for taking the Governor’s plans out of the budget.”

In removing the Governor’s changes to FamilyCare and IRIS, the JFC’s new proposal gives the Department of Health Services limited authority to negotiate with the federal government on potential changes to FamilyCare to better integrate long term and medical care. The process would include several notable components, such as: mandatory public and stakeholder input, robust, self-directed care with budget authority, preservation of ADRC services, and final approval of any federal waiver applications by the Joint Committee on Finance.

“Over the past few months, I have met with a number of my constituents, such as Marie from Door County, who strongly advocated the importance of maintaining the excellent services that our long-term care programs provide,” Rep. Kitchens said. “I am pleased that we can move forward with a new plan that ensures that the public and stakeholders have a say in the final proposal.”

The JFC will continue to make improvements to Governor Walker’s proposed budget in the coming weeks. The budget is expected to be voted on by the Legislature in June.

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